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31 May, 1946.

5/31

TO : SAINT, WASHINGTON

FROM : SAINT, LONDON

SUBJECT: Karl Rudolf Werner BEST. ([])

1. Attached is a report CI-PIR/115, dated 14 May 1946, from USFET on the interrogation of Dr. Karl Rudolf Werner BEST.

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CI Preliminary Interrogation Report (CI-PIR) No 115

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PRISONER: Dr BEST, Karl, Rudolf Werner German plenipotentiary
in Denmark

1. PERSONAL DATA

Dr BEST was born in DARMSTADT, 10 Jul 03. He attended elementary school from 1909 until 1921 in LIEGNITZ, DORTMUND and MAINZ. He studied law from 1921 until 1925 at the University of FRANKFURT, FREIBURG and GIESSEN, and served as Referendar in Hessian courts and law firms from 1925 until 1928. He obtained his law degree at the University of HEIDELBERG in 1928. 1929-1931 Worked in Hessian courts.

1930 Joined NSDAP

1930 Married Hilde REGNER

1931 Elected member of the Hessian Landrat, joined SS. Relieved from duty with the Hessian courts because of his political activities.

1931-1933 NSDAP Kreisleiter of MAINZ

1933 Regierungstat and head of the police department of the Hessian Ministry of Interior: (Landespolizeipräsident). Relieved from duty late in 1933 because of conflict with Gauleiter SPRENGER.

1934 Employed with the SD and Gestapo in STUTTGART & MUENCHEN in an advisory capacity on legal matters.

1935-1940 Chief of Gestapo department for justice and jurisprudence.

1939 Enlisted in Army.

1940-1942 Recalled from the Army and placed in charge of judicial section of the "Verwaltungsstab" of the Wehrmacht in France.

1942 Ministerial Direktor in the Auswaertige Amt.

1942-1945 Reichs plenipotentiary to Denmark, at first not accredited but later functioning as a regular envoy to the Danish government. (As such his functions were of a purely political nature)
Interned since 21 May 45.

BEST surrendered himself to the Danish authorities in COPENHAGEN on 21 May 45, immediately after the German surrender. The following reports have been published on the basis of his interrogation by British and Danish agencies.

Interrogation Report of 31 Aug 45;
Civilian Interrogation Center,
British Military Mission, Denmark

Interrogation Report on Mrs Best, 20 Nov 45;
Civilian Interrogation Center,
British Military Mission, Denmark

Vernehmung des Dr BEST,
Kastell, Kopenhagen, 1. Aug 45
(Danish Police)

3. KNOWLEDGE BRIEF

Connections with the following persons:

Krim Rat HERMANNSEN SD in COPENHAGEN 1943-1945

H/Stuf FAHL Representative of Amt III, RSHA. in COPENHAGEN

Stud Rat WAESCHE Worked for SD, understudy of PAHL

Standf MILDNER, Dr Rudolf Chief of SD in COPENHAGEN until Jan
1944

Standf BOVENSIEFEN Successor of MILDNER

U/Stuf FERL Press supervisor in COPENHAGEN

Reg Rat Dr HOFFMANN Chief of Abt IV, COPENHAGEN

BUNKE Worked in Abt IV, COPENHAGEN

Krim Komm SCHWEITZER Worked in Abt IV

Krim Komm ELPERT Worked in Abt IV, department which maintains
liaison with Abwehr.

Krim Rat Dr ZECHENTER Chief of Abt V

Krim Rat d'HEIL Successor of ZECHENTER

Stubaf SEIBOLD Worked for Amt VI, appeared in COPENHAGEN per-
iodically.

O/Stuf SCHWERT Same as above

H/Stuf ISSEL Same as above

Stubaf KARSTEN Same as above

Reg Rat FINKE Police Attache, German Embassy in STOCKHOLM.

H/Stuf SOEHNLEIN SD Aust AARHUS

Krim Rat RENNERT Aust AARHUS

Krim Rat GUTTMAN Aust ODENSE

in 1939. Later worked for ADWENT,
collecting information on foreign
shipping.

4. INTERROGATION PLAN

In view of the fact that BEST was very thoroughly interrogated by both Danish and British authorities, no further interrogation is planned unless special briefs are received.

5. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BEST mainly active in a political field and his knowledge of German intelligence is but scanty. He should be returned to Danish authorities for further action. No FIR will be published.

Recipients of this report are requested to submit special briefs for interrogation of prisoner, and to indicate desired distribution of the resultant report.

JVR: HEB/mr

For the Commanding Officer:

George Wenzel
GEORGE WENZEL
1st Lt, AUS
Chief, CI Section

14 May 46

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